

What is claimed is:

1. A digital data storage and transmitting device comprising:  
a controller configured and arranged so as to control the operation of the digital data storage and transmitting device and functionalities thereof;  
a storage medium;  
an I/O mechanism configured and arranged so as to operably connect the storage medium and a data output of an image capturing device;  
a transmitting apparatus operably connected to the storage medium;  
and  
wherein the controller controls the downloading of digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism and storage of said data in the device storage medium, and controls the transmission of the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium via the transmitting apparatus to another storage medium serviced by a server remote from the digital data storage and transmitting device.
2. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the device storage medium comprises a non-volatile type of storage medium.
3. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 2, wherein the non-volatile type of storage medium comprises one of flash memory, spindle memory, a non-volatile type of random access memory or a hard drive.
4. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the transmitting mechanism embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.
5. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1,

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wherein the controller includes a microprocessor and an applications program for execution on the microprocessor, the applications program including instructions and criteria for:

downloading digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism;

processing the downloaded digitized data so that it is stored in the device storage medium, and

transmitting the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium to the another storage medium.

6. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 5, wherein the applications program further includes instructions and criteria for:

establishing a communications link between the image capturing device and the microprocessor before the downloading of data; and

establishing a communications link between the microprocessor and the remote server.

7. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 6, wherein the applications program further includes instructions and criteria for:

converting the digitized data to be transmitted into the appropriate format for transmission; and

encrypting the transmission.

8. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1, wherein the I/O mechanism comprises a port configured and arranged so as to be compatible with a particular communications protocol and technique used to communicate the digitized data from the image capturing device and the device storage medium.

9. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 1,

wherein the I/O mechanism includes a second transmitting mechanism that embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

10. The digital data storage and transmitting device of claim 5, wherein:

the image capturing device is fixed and includes a third transmitting mechanism that embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques, where the image capturing device transmits acquired digitized image data via the third transmitting mechanism after completion of an image acquisition cycle;

the digital data storage and transmitting device is moveable so as to pass through the viewing area of the image capturing device and includes a fourth transmitting mechanism; and

the applications program further includes instructions and criteria for:

outputting a signal from the fourth transmitting mechanism when in a viewing area of the image capturing device so as to cause the image capturing device to begin to acquire image data;

receiving the digitized image data being wirelessly transmitted from the image capturing device.

11. An image capturing and storage system comprising:  
an image capturing device;

a digital data storage and transmitting device;

a server including a storage medium;

a first communications link removable interconnecting the image capturing device and the digital storage and transmitting device;

a second communications link interconnecting the digital data storage and transmitting device and the server; and

wherein the digital data storage and transmitting device comprises:

a controller configured and arranged so as to control the operation of the

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digital data storage and transmitting device and functionalities thereof,

a storage medium;

an I/O mechanism configured and arranged so as to operably connect the storage medium to the first communications link;

a transmitting apparatus operably connected to the storage medium;

and

wherein the controller controls the downloading of digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism and storage of said data in the device storage medium, and controls the transmission of the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium via the transmitting apparatus to the server storage medium.

12. The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein the device storage medium comprises a non-volatile type of storage medium, the non-volatile type of storage medium comprising one of flash memory, spindle memory, a non-volatile type of random access memory or a hard drive.

13. The image capturing and storage system of claim 1, wherein the first communications link and the device I/O mechanism embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

14. The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein a portion of the second communications link and the device transmitting mechanism embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

15. The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein the device controller includes a microprocessor and an applications program for execution on the microprocessor, the applications program including instructions and criteria for:

downloading digitized image data from the image capturing device via

the first communications link and the I/O mechanism;

processing the downloaded digitized data so that it is stored in the device storage medium, and

transmitting the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium to the another storage medium over the second communications link.

16. The image capturing and storage system of claim 11, wherein another portion of the second communications link comprises a network infrastructure embodying of at least one of a wired or wireless protocol/ technique.

17. A method for capturing images using an image capturing device and storing the captured images at a remote storage location comprising the steps of:

providing a digital data storage and transmitting device including:  
a controller configured and arranged so as to control the operation of the digital data storage and transmitting device and functionalities thereof,  
a storage medium,  
an I/O mechanism configured and arranged so as to operably connect the storage medium to the image capturing device, and  
a transmitting apparatus operably connected to the storage medium;  
downloading digitized image data from the image capturing device via the I/O mechanism;  
storing said downloaded data in the device storage medium; and  
transmitting the stored downloaded data from the device storage medium via the transmitting apparatus to the server storage medium.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:  
establishing a first communications link removable interconnecting the image capturing device and the digital storage and transmitting device; and

establishing a second communications link interconnecting the digital data storage and transmitting device and the server.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein one of the first communications link embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques or a portion of the second communications link embodies wireless communication protocols and techniques.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein another portion of the second communications link comprises a network infrastructure embodying of at least one of a wired or wireless protocol/ technique.

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